



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7698

TOP SECRET BELGRADE 5250

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

EO 11552 GDS

TAGS: YD

REF: (A) STATE 196864, (B) RCI 22211

1. I CONFESS YOU GAVE ME PAUSE BY ASSERTING THAT RESIGNING IN THE FACE OF TITO'S ATTACK WOULD DO DAMAGE TO THE U.S. POSITION IN YUGOSLAVIA. HOWEVER, AS I SEE IT, GOY HAS DE FACTO IF NOT DE JURE DECLARED ME PERSONA NON GRATA. AS REFTEL (6) INDICATES GOY INTENDS TO IGNORE ME AND OPENLY MAINTAINS THAT I CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY PERFORM MY MISSION UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. MY OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES IN THE LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH I HATE TO RESIGN UNDER FIRE, I CANNOT SEE WHAT GOOD I CAN DO HERE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. YOU WILL NOTE IN REFTEL (8) THAT I AM REFERRED TO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF "ZIONIST AND RIGHT-WING CIRCLES IN THE UNITED STATES." (IN THAT CONNECTION I HAVE NOTED, ALTHOUGH THE AMERICAN PRESS HASN'T, THAT YUGOSLAV PAPERS DESCRIBE THEIR UNFAVORABLE PRESS IN THE U.S. AS ASCRIBABLE TO THEIR PRO-APAB MID-EAST POLICY.) THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HEARD THIS SINCE I HAVE COME AS AMBASSADOR. INDEED MILICEVIC, THE DRAFTER OF REFTEL (8), TOOK ME TO LUNCH IN JANUARY

DOS Review Completed

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Department of State TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

PAGE 02

111313Z

AFTER I HAD DELIVERED YOUR DEMARCHE ON ANGOLA AND MADE A TOUGH PROTEST ABOUT BOTH TO ASK ME IN A ROUND-ABOUT BUT UNAMBIGUOUS WAY WHETHER THE POSITIONS I EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF THE USG WERE TO SOME EXTENT COLORED BY YUGOSLAVIA'S MID-EAST POLICY. OTHERS HAVE SUGGESTED ALMOST FROM THE DAY I ARRIVED THAT MY BACKGROUND WOULD AFFECT MY PERCEPTION OF YUGOSLAVIA.

3. OF COURSE THIS IS ALL BALDERDASH. AS YOU KNOW I HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR MID-EAST POLICY AND INDEED IN MY REPORTING CABLES HAVE GIVEN YUGOSLAVS CREDIT FOR HELPING TO HEAD OFF SOME ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS. ALTHOUGH I MAY WELL BE SOMEWHAT TOUGHER ON THE YUGOSLAVS THAN A NUMBER IN YOUR DEPARTMENT, IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE "PROTOCOLS OF ZION". PUTTING ASIDE MY PERSONAL FEELINGS (WHICH I CAN) THIS GOY PERCEPTION PERMITS THEM TO DEAL WITH ME OTHER THAN AS THE FULL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

4. FINALLY, REFTEL (B) REVEALS GOY APPRAISAL OF REASONS FOR USG SUPPORT AS TOTALLY ASCRIBABLE TO PRE-ELECTION POLITICS. IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS AS IF BELOVSKI IS REPORTING THAT CERTAIN CIRCLES (TO USE THE YUGOSLAV PHRASE) IN THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LOVE TO GET RID OF ME BUT CAN'T UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION (WHICH I AM SURE IS TRUE).

5. IN SUM THEN, THE YUGOSLAVS PLAN TO ISOLATE ME UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION AND IN THE MEANTIME TREAT MY CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE NOT AS A REFLECTION OF U.S. POLICY TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA BUT RATHER IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL EXIGENCIES. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DOUBT MY CONTINUED USEFULNESS TO ANYONE. I WOULD STAY HERE UNTIL HELL FROZE OVER IF I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR U.S. INTERESTS AND IF I WAS TO GET THE KIND OF TRULY SOLID BACKING (INCLUDING RECIPROCITY VIS-A-VIS BELOVSKI) WHICH WOULD FORCE THE YUGOSLAVS TO DEAL WITH ME. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THE FORMER AND DON'T FORESEE THE LATTER.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

TOP SECRET

PAGE 03

111313Z

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE TIMING
OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND YOUR DESIRE AS TO THE EFFECTIVE
DATE. MY OWN VIEW IS APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 1
(BY THE WHITE HOUSE OF COURSE) AND OCTOBER 1.
SILBERMAN

EQT

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